

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4784

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI OVIP EC

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ARMY SECRETARY HOWARD H. CALLAWAY

REF A. QUITO 4430 B. QUITO 4520

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE HAS BEEN CLEARED WITH SECRETARY CALLAWAY.

GQM SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS VISIT TO QUITO BY ARMY SECRETARY HOWARD H. CALLAWAY JULY 15-17, 1974. THE SECRETARY WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ, DEFENSE MINISTER AND COMMANDING GENERAL ECUADOREAN ARMY. HE WAS PRESENT ALONG WITH PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR PRESENTATION OF LEGION OF MERIT TO DEPARTING DEF AND ARMYATT COL. JOHN W. BLAIKIE. HE LISTENED TO PRESENTATION BY ARMY COMMANDING GENERAL REGARDING ECUADOR'S MOST URGENT ARMY TRAINING AND MATERIEL REQUIREMENTS. THROUGH SECRETARY'S GOOD OFFICES, WE WERE ABLE SAME DAY RESPOND POSITIVELY TO ONE PARTICULAR URGENT REQUEST FOR ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT. SECRETARY'S VISIT WAS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO FURTHERING U.S. OBJECTIVES IN ECUADOR. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING BRIEFING BY AMBASSADOR AND MISSION STAFF

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AFTERNOON JULY 15, SECRETARY CALLAWAY ACCOMPANIED BY AMBAS-

SADOR, DEFATT COL. BLAIKIE, AND COL. CHARLES W. DYKE MADE BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTER ALMEIDA. THEREAFTER, SAME PARTY WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ LARA (WHO FOR FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE SHOWED HIMSELF VERY PROFICIENT IN ENGLISH). PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ DID NOT GO DEEPLY INTO SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS BUT HINTED BROADLY THAT THESE WOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH THE SECRETARY IN ANOTHER FORUM.

3. THE SAME EVENING SECRETARY CALLAWAY WAS PRESENT AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR A SURPRISE PRESENTATION BY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE LEGION OF MERIT TO COL. JOHN W. BLAIKIE. COL. BLAIKIE WAS HONORED IN THIS PRESENTATION BY THE PRESENCE NOT ONLY OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF ADMINISTRATION (A CABINET RANK POSITION HELD BY COL. CARLOS AGUIRRE), THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ARMY BUT NOTABLY BY PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ HIMSELF. THE PRESIDENT REMAINED NOT FOR THE FEW MINUTES EXPECTED BUT FOR TWO FULL HOURS IN A DEMONSTRATION OF RESPECT FOR COL. BLAIKIE AND THE U.S. WHICH HE HAS VERY RARELY BESTOWED ON ANY COUNTRY REPRESENTED IN ECUADOR. DURING THIS PRESENTATION SECRETARY CALLAWAY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHAT INFORMALLY AND AT GREATER LENGTH WITH THE PRESIDENT.

4. ON THE MORNING OF JULY 16, SECRETARY CALLAWAY ACCOMPANIED BY DCM HEMENWAY, COL. BLAIKIE AND COL. DYKE CALLED ON ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL MARIO LOPEZ SERRANO WHO HAD HIS ENTIRE STAFF PRESENT FOR THE MEETING. A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT THIS MEETING BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. GENERAL LOPEZ MADE TWO GENERAL POINTS. FIRST, HE SAID WITH RESPECT TO THE ARMY MATERIEL NEEDS THAT ECUADOR WAS INTERESTED ONLY IN PURCHASING NEW EQUIPMENT. ITS EXPERIENCE WITH REBUILT EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN LESS THAN SATISFACTORY. FURTHERMORE, ECUADOR WAS INTERESTED MAINLY IN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PURCHASES BECAUSE IT WISHED TO AVOID THE HIGHER COSTS OF COMMERCIAL AGENT INTERMEDIARIES.

5. GENERAL LOPEZ SPECIFIED THAT ECUADOR'S IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR MATERIEL HAD TO DO WITH ENGINEER EQUIPMENT AND VEHICULAR MATERIEL. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS URGENT NEED FOR CATERPILLAR
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D-7 TRACTORS IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND PREPARATION FOR THE REFINERY AT ESMERALDAS AND HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE U.S. ARMY MISSION TEAM THAT WAS HERE IN MAY HAD RENEGED ON ITS STATEMENT THAT 100 SUCH TRACTORS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE RIGHT AWAY. HE ALSO MENTIONED THE NEED FOR 300 NEW JEEPS, SAYING THAT HE KNEW THE U.S. ARMY HAD JUST SOLD THIS NUMBER TO A U.S. COMMERCIAL DEALER AND COULD BE PURCHASED THAT WAY BY ECUADOR BUT REPEATED

THAT THE GOE PREFERRED A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DEAL.

6. WITH REGARD TO TRAINING HE SAID THAT THE MOST URGENT REQUIREMENT WAS TO RECEIVE HIGH-LEVEL TRAINING BY FIVE MEMBERS OF HIS IMMEDIATE STAFF IN AREAS SUCH AS LOGISTICS AND FIELD MEDICINE. THE DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY THE 31-COUNTRY LIMITATION ON NON-CONUS TRAINING WERE EXPLAINED TO GENERAL LOPEZ. NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT WITH THIS URGENT NEED, FIVE TRAINING SLOTS IN THE U.S. INCLUDING PRIOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING, COULD PROBABLY BE PROVIDED WITH AVAILABLE FY 1975 MAP-T FUNDS. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT COL. LOPEZ'S STAFF MAKE KNOWN THE DETAILS OF THIS REQUEST IN WRITING.

7. SECRETARY CALLAWAY SAID THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF DELIVERING THE MINIMUM MOST URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR 15 D-7S, AND THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT IT COULD BE DONE. HE SAID ALSO THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE JEEP SITUATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WITH RESPECT TO MAP TRAINING THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE 31-COUNTRY LIMITATION WAS A LEGISLATIVE LIMITATION AND THEREFORE NOT SO EASY TO OVERCOME, BUT HE SAID THAT HE WOULD DO WHATEVER HE COULD TO SEE THAT ECUADOR WAS INCLUDED AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR NON-U.S. MAP TRAINING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

8. LATER IN THE DAY ON JULY 17, THE SECRETARY WAS ABLE TO RECEIVE THE GREEN LIGHT FOR SHIPMENT OF THE 15 TRACTORS WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER A RECEIPT OF A SIGNED WEAPONS

OFFER FROM ECUADOR. THAT EVENING AT A DINNER HOSTED BY GENERAL LOPEZ, SECRETARY CALLAWAY ANNOUNCED THIS GOOD NEWS OF CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF U.S. WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO CONFIDENTIAL

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COLLABORATE WITH THE ECUADOREAN ARMY.

9. COMMENT: THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WAS A TOTAL SUCCESS. IT CAME AT A TIME WHEN RELATIOS BETWEEN OUR ARMED FORCES HAD RECENTLY BEEN RENEWED AND AT A TIME WHEN SOME OF THE BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS INHERENT IN RENEWING SUCH A RELATIONSHIP WERE ALREADY BECOMING EVIDENT. BY HIS PRESENCE AND BY HIS ABILITY TO BREAK THROUGH THE RED TAPE WITH RESPECT TO ONE ISSUE OF URGENCY TO THE ECUADOREAN ARMY, HE WAS ABLE TO GIVE CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF OUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT. UNEXPECTEDLY, AND HAPPILY, HIS DEPARTURE ON JULY 17, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE SAME MILITARY HONORS WITH WHICH HE WAS WELCOMED.
HEMENWAY

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